

# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

PO Box 127, Woolton, Liverpool, L25 8WY

ISSUE NO: 318, April/May 2011



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS

## NEWSLETTER

### *Save Our Services!*



**Woolton Baths**



**Woolton Library**

Woolton's services are under threat, as both the baths & the library are being considered for closure as the Council implements the Government's cuts. Full reports on the potential closures are on pages 3 & 4.

Newsletter contents in full:

Society news: page 2

Dates for your diary: page 2

Woolton news: pages 3 & 4

Planning applications: pages 5 to 7

Conservation area map: page 8

## *Society News*

### **RECENT TALKS:**

Gig Hardy, lately of Merseyside Biobank gave our March meeting a very informative talk on recording wildlife species. For further details on how to get going contact Biobank on [www.MerseysideBiobank.org.uk](http://www.MerseysideBiobank.org.uk)

## *Dates for your diary*

Our next speaker is to be Professor David Dunster, recently retired from the School of Architecture at Liverpool University. His topic is Cities, & why we don't understand them. He will be giving us a colourful tour of some of the cities which have inspired ideas in planning, such as New York, Paris, Rome & Berlin. He will also touch on how maps distort our understanding of cities, with reference to the London Underground map.

**This talk will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, at 7.30 pm in the Woolton Village Club. Please note the change of date from that previously advertised.**

Our speaker in July will be Frank Smith, who gave us a very entertaining talk in 2009 on *Mr Meccano*, Frank Hornby, complete with working Meccano models. His topic on **July 20<sup>th</sup>** will be William Lassell, amateur, gentleman & astronomer. Fuller details will be on our notice board & in issue 319 of the Newsletter.

**All Woolton Society meetings are held in the upstairs room at the Woolton Village Club, starting at 7.30pm. Meetings are free & open to all. Membership forms, if required, are available from committee members.**

### **The Baby Elephant's Secret**

Issues 316 & 317 have featured pleas for information about a stone tablet unearthed during recent renovations at The Elephant Hotel. We have come to learn that the Rev. Thomas Robinson, commemorated in the stone was vicar of a church in Seel St in the 1830s, but we were puzzled as to how his memorial arrived in Woolton. The current licensee of The Elephant has contacted The Woolton Society to remind us that the Korova Corporation was the previous owner of both St Peter's in Seel St & The Elephant. It then busily transformed both into Alma de Cuba & Casa del Cocodrillo respectively, which could explain building materials & excavations at one site ending up at another. Happily, The Elephant is now restored to its old self, thanks in no small part to the efforts of The Woolton Society. For this story see Newsletters 309,310,311 & 312.

### **Membership Secretary**

Once again we are sending out a plea for a membership secretary, as our long suffering Vice Chairman has been doing this job single handed for some time. The duties are not onerous, but computer skills would be an advantage. All candidates please form an orderly queue at the next meeting, or e-mail the Newsletter at [jeandavies@talktalk.net](mailto:jeandavies@talktalk.net)

### **Woolton Society Subscription rates:**

Adult single £6

Senior/student single £4

Adult joint (same address) £9

Senior/student joint (same address) £6

# Woolton News

## Save Woolton Library Campaign (from Ron Travis, campaign coordinator)

The Save Woolton Library Campaign group was set up when it became apparent that the Council was considering the closure of Woolton Library as part of a package of service reductions following a huge government cut in the City's budget. The threat of a library closure has come on top of the expected closure of Woolton Swimming Pool and many residents have expressed anger that the amenities that attracted them to live in the area are now under threat. Local people feel that they pay high council taxes and could be facing an unfair share of the cuts.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joe Anderson, has written to us explaining that no final decision has yet been made, but that the coalition government has imposed a massive budget cut on the city of £91 million this year and £50 million next year. He says that this means that "nothing can be immune from the Government's cuts to the city" and that "no cut has been easy" claiming that the Council have "done their best to protect front line services" including libraries. Local M.P., Maria Eagle, has told us that "Liverpool has been hit hardest by the Tory government. Many Tory councils and constituencies have had to make tiny savings in comparison". She adds that "no consideration has been made for the most deprived areas in the country, such as our city."

A library consultation exercise is being carried out to seek the views of library users. **Residents are strongly urged to visit the library and complete a questionnaire to express their views about the future of the library service.**

It is clear that local residents strongly oppose the closure of Woolton Library. Almost 5,000 local people, nearly half the population of the area, have signed the "Save Woolton Library" petition. An i-petition has also been set up so that residents have an opportunity to voice their views about a library closure and say what the library means to them. **You can visit the i-petition to sign the petition, make a comment and read the blog by googling: Save Woolton Library i-petitions.**

The comments on the i-petition show that vast majority of residents believe that the library is at the heart of community and they fear that its closure would damage the community life of the village. For many people Woolton is a well loved and well used library considering its modest facilities. Many use the library together as families with parents and grandparents passing on the reading habit to the younger generation. A library closure would be a real blow to the people of Woolton and would seriously undermine the sense of community in the village.

Lots of children live in the village and several schools and nurseries in Woolton make regular visits to the library, and lots of people are concerned that its closure will have a negative impact on the literacy of young people in the community and will reduce their chances of developing a lifelong interest in books and reading. Parents collecting their children from schools in the area and pupils from local schools have been supportive in signing the petition.

Woolton has a large and growing elderly population. The proportion of older residents living in Woolton is much higher than the average for the city. Despite poor access to the library building, many elderly people make good use of the library, some with the help of friends and relatives, and it is a reading lifeline for many O.A.P.s who would struggle to find books and information if the library closed.

Many elderly people, who cannot afford computers, make good use of the Peoples' Network computers in the library to get information, find out about benefits, follow an interest in family history or to shop online. If the library closed, many would be denied these facilities.

For many the library has played an important role in helping families to read and learn and is an important agent of lifelong learning in the area. Their comments show how important the library has been in providing books and information and offering some a second chance to learn.

Woolton Library is a fairly low cost facility operated by a handful of friendly staff. It is unlikely that the library will entirely escape cuts such as a reduction in opening hours or the introduction of a part-time volunteer. However, the savings made from a library closure would be relatively small, yet the damage to the community would be considerable. Please help us to keep the library open by signing the petition or by writing to your local M.P. or the Council Leader. Their postal and e-mail addresses can be found on the Save Woolton Library i-petition blog.

**Members of the Save the Library campaign met Council Leader Joe Anderson & libraries chief Wendy Simon at the Municipal Buildings on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr Anderson assured the group that no decisions will be made on closures until after the local elections on May 5<sup>th</sup>. There is still time to make your opinion known. Mr Anderson offered to hold a Cabinet meeting in Woolton at 9.30 am on April 28<sup>th</sup>. At the time of going to press we are unsure of the location of this meeting, as the Library has been deemed to be too small. Contact the Library (428 2235) for venue details. Members of the public can attend these meetings.**

### **Woolton Baths**

Local architect & Woolton Society member Sue Carmichael has been working on a project to have the baths building listed as an historic structure. Listed status would thwart the possibility of the site being given over to a developer should the council decide to close the pool permanently. Mrs Carmichael has also made representation to English Heritage & the Victorian Society, drawing on the wealth of information contained in the booklets of Woolton Walks by Janet Gnospelius.

We are not aware of any planning applications, & at the time of going to press we have not been informed of the Council's intentions concerning the pool's future. As is the case with the library, decisions are on hold pending the local election results. The appeal for funds goes on, in the hope of raising enough to pay for essential repairs. The Woolton Society has made a substantial donation to the Save the Pool appeal.

### **Hello and Goodbye**

A sad farewell to Woolton's blacksmith which closed recently after serving the Village for nearly a century. The business was established soon after the Great War in Quarry Street, & traded as Blackmore & Sons. With the death of Bernie Blackmore the business was sold, & renamed Woolton Blacksmiths. However when the lease expired the site was put up for sale, & the smithy has moved to new premises in Netherley.

Hello to a new restaurant **Caveau** at 54 Allerton Road, with chef/patron David Roberts. Mr Roberts was formerly of L'Allouette in Lark Lane. **Caveau** will be open Tuesday to Saturday 5 to 10pm (early doors menu 5 to 7pm, £16.95 for 2 courses) & Sunday lunchtimes. Bookings on 428 6966.

Hello also to Woolton's first fish spa, situated in **Maria Morrisroe** at 39 Allerton Road. For those who have never used a fish spa, it is an experience with nothing to do with eating. Bare feet are dangled in a tank of tiny garra rufa fish, which then nibble at toes & heels, giving a perfect pedicure. A Japanese speciality, & surprisingly soothing if rather ticklish! £10 for 20 minutes. Book on 288 8088/8090 (ask for Tracy)

### **Woolton Cinema**

The new manager of the cinema has informed us that he intends to restore the canopy over the steps. Good news, as the ironwork currently on display is not only a considerable eyesore, it is less than useful at sheltering customers queuing outside. We look forward to seeing a new canopy soon, together with the hanging baskets which made the cinema's frontage so attractive.

## *Planning News & Applications*

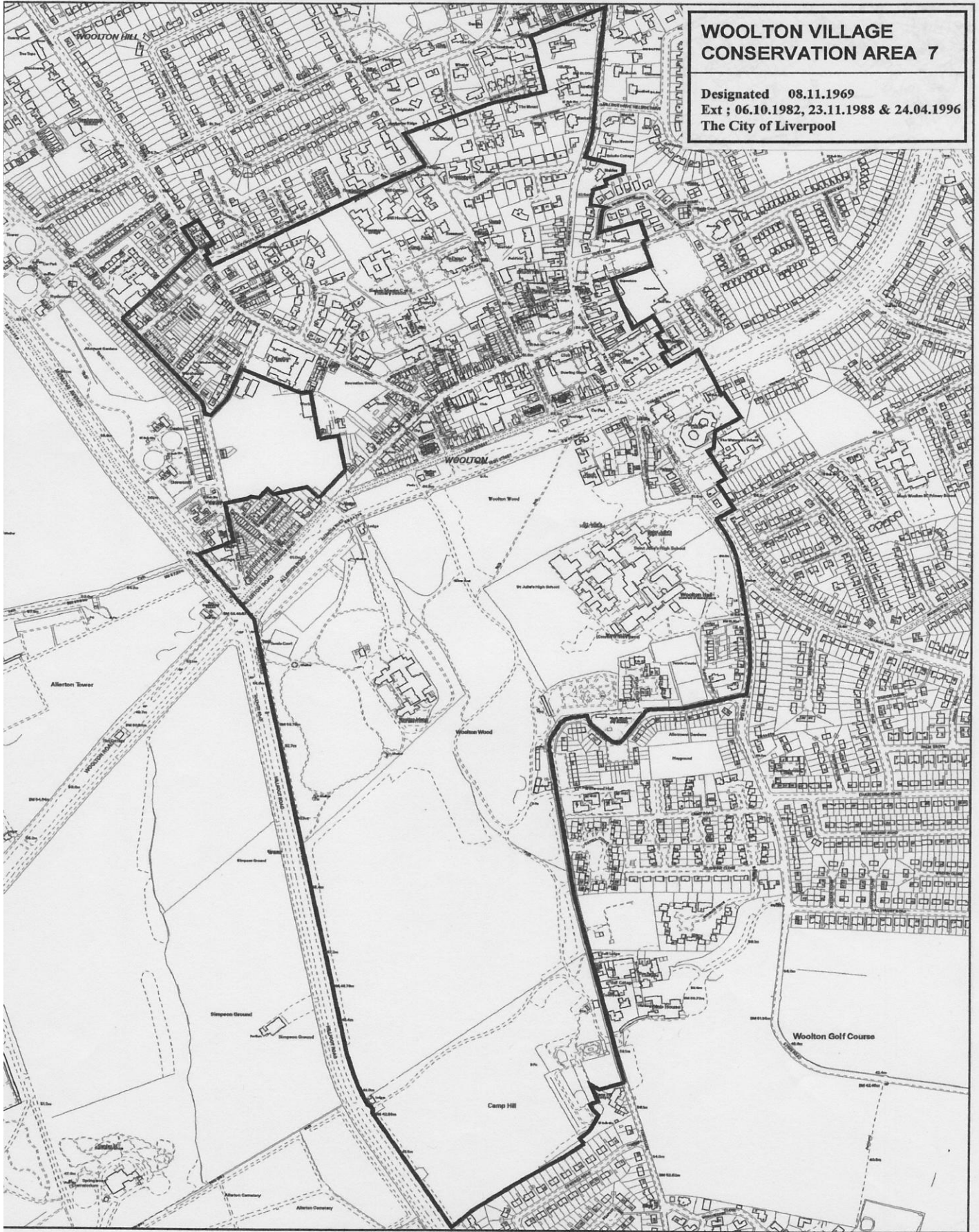
The following planning applications have been received for Woolton  
by the City council since our last newsletter. See

[www.liverpool.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/search\\_and\\_track/index.asp?action=search](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/search_and_track/index.asp?action=search)

Applic'r Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
11H/0718	14 Aldbourne Avenue Liverpool L25 6JE	To erect part single storey/part two storey extension to rear; erect dormer to rear; increase height of and extend and alter roof including installation of roof lights and solar pv units; decking and privacy screen to rear garden; metal railings and gates to existing means of enclosure to front curtilage.	REGISTERED	08-04-2011	
11H/0634	79 Wallgate Road Liverpool L25 1PP	To erect part 2 storey/part single storey extension to the rear and porch at front (Amended Description).	REGISTERED	07-04-2011	
11TC/0722	Woodleigh High Street Liverpool L25 7TD	To carry out tree works in a conservation area	REGISTERED	31-03-2011	
11H/0720	422 Woolton Road Liverpool L25 6JQ	To erect single storey extension to the rear	REGISTERED	31-03-2011	
11TC/0703	102 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RQ	To carry out tree works in a conservation area	FINAL DECISIO	30-03-2011	No Objections
11F/0696	11 Woolton Street Woolton Liverpool L25 5NH	To erect first floor extension to rear, relocate flue pipe and erect pitched roof over existing flat roof at rear.	REGISTERED	30-03-2011	
11H/0664	9 Monks Way Liverpool L25 5HP	To erect single storey extension to the rear	REGISTERED	24-03-2011	
11F/0628	5 Baddow Croft Liverpool L2 7DB	To convert storage space in roof into 1 no. on bedroomed flat and install 12 no. roof lights in south and west roof planes.	REGISTERED	22-03-2011	
11H/0608	Ashfield Church Road Liverpool L25 6DD	To erect first floor extension to the rear, 2 storey extension to the front and reconfigure and increase height of roof in connection with loft conversion.	REGISTERED	17-03-2011	
11L/0581	21 Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EE	To carry out internal/external alterations in connection with use of vacant ancillary school building as 1 no. dwellinghouse.	REGISTERED	15-03-2011	
11H/0634	79 Wallgate Road Liverpool L25 1PP	To erect part 2 storey/part single storey extension to the rear and porch at front (Amended Description).	REGISTERED	07-04-2011	
11TC/0722	Woodleigh High Street Liverpool L25 7TD	To carry out tree works in a conservation area	REGISTERED	31-03-2011	
11H/0720	422 Woolton Road Liverpool L25 6JQ	To erect single storey extension to the rear	REGISTERED	31-03-2011	
11TC/0703	102 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RQ	To carry out tree works in a conservation area	FINAL DECISIO	30-03-2011	No Objections

11F/0696	11 Woolton Street Woolton Liverpool L25 5NH	To erect first floor extension to rear, relocate flue pipe and erect pitched roof over existing flat roof at rear.	REGISTERED	30-03-2011	
11H/0664	9 Monks Way Liverpool L25 5HP	To erect single storey extension to the rear	REGISTERED	24-03-2011	
11F/0628	5 Baddow Croft Liverpool L25 7DB	To convert storage space in roof into 1 no. one-bedroomed flat and install 12 no. roof lights in south and west roof planes.	REGISTERED	22-03-2011	
11H/0608	Ashfield Church Road Liverpool L25 6DD	To erect first floor extension to the rear, 2 storey extension to the front and reconfigure and increase height of roof in connection with loft conversion.	REGISTERED	17-03-2011	
11L/0581	21 Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EE	To carry out internal/external alterations in connection with use of vacant ancillary school building as 1 no. dwellinghouse.	REGISTERED	15-03-2011	
11T/0486	St Gabriels Convent Knolle Park Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25	To carry out tree works (fell 9 no. trees and prune 1 other).	REGISTERED	02-03-2011	
11H/0487	36 Castle Street Liverpool L25 7SW	To install 2 no. upvc windows to the front elevation.	REGISTERED	02-03-2011	
11A/0304	The Bear and Staff Public House, 24 Gateacre Brow Liverpool, L25 3PB	To display replacement illuminated and non- illuminated signs.	REGISTERED	01-03-2011	
11H/0477	36 Quickswood Drive Liverpool L25 4TR	To erect single storey extension to the side and increase height of roof by approximately metre in connection with conversion of loft into living accommodation.	REGISTERED	25-02-2011	
11F/0461	46 Castle Street Liverpool L25 7SW	To erect 3 storey detached dwellinghouse with single storey outrigger at rear and erect associated boundary treatments.	REGISTERED	24-02-2011	
11F/0460	Plot 8 Three Acres Close Liverpool L25 6E	To erect 5 bed detached three storey dwelling (part alternative to permission number 01F/2275 granted 18/12/01).	FINAL DECISION	24-02-2011	Approve w Conditions
11F/0450	Tesco Stores Ltd, Land off High Street Liverpool L25	Application to replace extant planning permission to 07F/2308 - To erect single storey extension to retail floorspace at front and east side; erect new storage extension and cage storage area at west side and carry out ancillary works; to vary Condition No.3 attached to 97R/1651 (granted 23/12/97) so as to allow the gross floorspace to increase to 4351 sq.m	REGISTERED	23-02-2011	
11H/0445	7 Aldbourne Close Liverpool L25 6JD	To erect single storey extension to the rear and erect 2 no. dormer extensions to rear.	FINAL DECISION	23-02-2011	Approve with Conditions
11A/0436	3 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RB	To display 10 non illuminated signs to front and side.	REGISTERED	23-02-2011	
11H/0366	23 Stonecrop Liverpool L18 3LU	To erect two storey extension to the side	FINAL DECISION	16-02-2011	Approve with Conditions

11H/0357	36 Barnmeadow Road Liverpool L25 4UG	To erect part single/part 2 storey extension to the rear.	FINAL DECISION	16-02-2011	Refuse
11H/0330	166 Quarry Street, Liverpool, L25 6DZ	To erect first floor extension to the side	REGISTERED	14-02-2011	
11H/0292	12 Springmeadow Road Liverpool, L25 3PT	To erect single storey extension to front/ side and conservatory to the rear	FINAL DECISION	09-02-2011	Approve with Conditions
11L/0260	81 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HA	To retain gate to the rear, fence panel on existing rear wall and CCTV camera located on fence panel.	FINAL DECISION	04-02-2011	Approve with Conditions
11H/0259	81 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HA	To retain gate to the rear, fence panel on existing rear wall and CCTV camera located on fence panel.	FINAL DECISION	04-02-2011	Approve with Conditions
11H/0264	11 Headbourne Close, Liverpool, L25 1PS	To erect single storey extension to the side incorporating pitched roof over existing flat roofed outrigger at rear.	FINAL DECISION	04-02-2011	Approve with Conditions
11H/0188	Lime Cottage 2A Druid Cross Road Liverpool L18 3EA	To erect first floor extension at rear (incorporating juliette balcony), single storey extension at rear, 2 no.dormer extensions to eastern elevation, 2 no. dormers to western elevation and dormer extension to front	FINAL DECISION	25-01-2011	Approve with Conditions
11T/0159	19 Hornby Park, Liverpool, L18 3LL	To carry out tree works (reduce 1 no. Lime tree) in rear garden	FINAL DECISION	19-01-2011	Approve with Conditions



**WOOLTON VILLAGE  
CONSERVATION AREA 7**

Designated 08.11.1969  
Ext ; 06.10.1982, 23.11.1988 & 24.04.1996  
The City of Liverpool